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great Union leaders except Lincoln, contribute new ideas—they make no claim to contribute new data—which other historians must reckon with? Well, one must admit that in most cases, they end by reaffirming the traditional impression. For example, the initial essay. It beats the bush with great spirit but does it really—if new ideas are what we are after—start the hare? Is not the McClellan we know at the end of this essay pretty much the McClellan we knew at the beginning? One essay, perhaps—"Stanton"—emerges from the rest as a somewhat sharper attempt to weigh evidence with more definite results. Two essays will have distinct sectional interest. The "Sherman" will cause the typical Southerner to wonder whether he is beholding a mirage—so richly is the subject endowed with admirable qualities—while the "Sumner" challenges not a little of the established tradition of New England. And when considered as a whole the entire group has a stimulating word for us all. Without, perhaps, conscious purpose, Mr. Bradford, in these essays, is making a study of "Americanism". Here is his real contribution. What he sets us thinking about, time and again, is this question: how, to what extent, were these characters typical of America? The illusive-mindedness of McClellan, the vaingloriousness of Hooker, Meade's irritability, Sherman's restless preoccupation with externals, Sumner's belief that "words could do anything"—are these but so many traits of "the American"?

Furthermore, is there, in all these men, any common factor? The reviewer has a strong feeling that, as they are here presented, there is. It is never formulated and yet—if the effect is not a fancy—it is all the more real because of its pervasiveness and its unintentionality. Only to those who have no literary sense will it seem strange if Mr. Bradford's impressionism has done its best work unaware, sustaining throughout this book a sense of things that it was not his conscious purpose to express. Could he do better than to make his next task the formal presentation of this sense he has of a certain character tone, a moral and mental atmosphere that is distinctively "American"?

N. W. STEPHENSON.

The Life of William McKinley. By CHARLES S. OLCOTT. In two volumes. (Boston and New York; Houghton Mifflin Company. 1916. Pp. xvi, 400; viii, 418.)

MR. OLCOTT has made a readable biography, though it might with advantage have been either shortened in text or lengthened in title, for it is a panorama of McKinley's times not less than of his life. As explained in the preface, this expansion of its scope was due to the way in which the fortunes of its hero were intertwined with those of the nation. For the purposes of a reference compendium, the subject is well treated; but if the intention was to give us a vivid picture of one man's career, the chapters on the Tariff, Sectionalism, and the Cur-

rency might have been reduced to a few paragraphs apiece without spoiling its background.

The author is happiest in his handling of the human phases of his narrative. The memories which linger in the minds of intimates of McKinley as youth, soldier, son, husband, man among men, are wholly amiable; and possibly it is still too soon for the historian, above all things a friend, to present in its true perspective the public record of such a man during twenty-five years of making politics a profession. Mr. Olcott is so unreservedly a eulogist that in discussing McKinley's original attitude toward free-silver coinage, for instance, he goes into elaborate excuses for a course which might better have been dismissed with a simple confession that it was a mistake. A kindred criticism applies to the case of the civil-service order of May 29, 1899, "making certain changes which experience had proved necessary, and all intended to make a real improvement"; for no one familiar with the circumstances can forget the spirit in which most of the President's advisers attacked the task of overhauling the work of his immediate predecessor, or the "pressure from without" which all frankly admitted they were suffering. On such matters, the judicious reader will have to form his own judgments quite independently of those volunteered by the author.

Much interest attaches to the picture Mr. Olcott sketches of the administrative processes in ending the war with Spain. He was fortunate in having among his direct sources of information not only several close friends of McKinley like William R. Day and Charles G. Dawes, but so methodical a man as former Secretary Cortelyou, who made minute notes of every incident worth recording during this epoch. The preserved fragments of McKinley's own correspondence and private papers are few, because of his habitual preference of a face-to-face interview to an exchange of letters, as he consciously owed much of his influence over others to the spell of his personality; and his practice of disposing every day of the current business brought before him usually obviated the need of a memorandum. One of the rare exceptions to this rule was a pencil-jotting, plainly made on the spot by the President's own hand, of his informal talk with Admiral Dewey on October 3, 1899, about the Philippine situation. Of that a facsimile is given us. Several confidential letters, also, from Whitelaw Reid, John Hay, and Justice Day, written to the President in the summer and autumn of 1898, throw a little welcome color into the negotiations between the Spanish and the American peace commissioners at Manila, with inklings of the sentiment of the British and German governments respectively at that period.

Likewise illuminating are the communications by wire between Colonel Montgomery, who had charge of the White House telegraph and telephone facilities during the Boxer rebellion in China, and Secretary Cortelyou, who was passing the summer with McKinley in Canton, Ohio. These two men acted as mouthpieces for the President and the

members of his Cabinet. A cabinet officer in Washington would hold a long-distance telephone receiver to his ear; the President would do the same at the other end of the line; Montgomery and Cortelyou, seated at the main instruments, would do the actual conversing for them; and thus they could thresh out any question almost as conveniently as if they were on opposite sides of a table. Cortelyou's stenographic note-book recorded the conferences verbatim; and posterity will be able to read in them the story of the upgrowth of the policy pursued by our government in that crisis, and see the painstaking way in which the President personally edited the military and diplomatic despatches which were to be cabled abroad, so that they should convey just the desired shade of meaning, and avoid committing the United States by a single unnecessary or inadvisable word.

The chapter entitled Renomination and Re-election tells, probably for the first time in detail, the McKinley version of what took place behind the scenes at the Philadelphia convention of 1900, including the sharp and fateful struggle over the vice-presidency, and the individual shares of several of the more notable participants in bringing about the final result. In respect to sundry other features of his hero's career, Mr. Olcott answers questions which have long been waiting for authoritative settlement. The persistent devotion of McKinley to the protective tariff cause is attributed chiefly to two men: his old comrade in arms, Rutherford B. Hayes, advised his preparing himself for service in the House of Representatives by making a special study of this subject; and when James A. Garfield retired from Congress in 1880, leaving a vacancy in the Republican minority of the Ways and Means Committee, it was on his recommendation that Speaker Randall appointed McKinley to fill it. The friendship with Marcus A. Hanna which was to bear fruit of such historic importance began in the national convention of 1888, where McKinley remained loyal to Sherman in spite of the efforts of the opposition to lure him into countenancing a movement in his own behalf.

The two volumes are illustrated with nineteen reproductions from photographs; an appendix contains the complete text of McKinley's last address at Buffalo, a brief account of the trial of his assassin, and a paper on the monuments reared in his honor; and there is a very fair index.

History of Education in Iowa. By CLARENCE RAY AURNER. Volumes III., IV. (Iowa City, Iowa: State Historical Society. 1916. Pp. xii, 464; xi, 471.)

THE appearance of these two volumes in quick succession marks the completion of the second third of Dr. Aurner's notable history of education in Iowa. It is gratifying to find in them the dignity and worth which characterized the form and substance of the former volumes. They are authoritative, within their limitations, impartial in